

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method of propagating changes to a table, comprising the
2 steps of:
3 maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site;
4 maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site;
5 transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first copy of the table
6 from the first site to the second site; and
7 updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on the ~~transmitted~~
8 ~~changes~~ change data to create an updated second copy of the table[[:],
9 wherein the first copy of the table and the updated second copy of the table
10 ~~resulting from said transmitting and updating~~ have at least one non-
11 overlapping relational database column both before and after the step of
12 updating.
- 1 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping
2 relational database column is present in the first copy and missing in the updated
3 second copy.
- 1 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping
2 relational database column is missing in the first copy and present in the updated
3 second copy.
- 1 4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 reconciling differences in the column shape of the first copy and the column
3 shape of the second copy for ~~the transmitted~~ changes identified in the change data.
- 1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 defining a top flavor describing overlapping relational database columns and non-
3 overlapping relational database columns of the table.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
2 defining a first flavor describing the columns of the first copy; and
3 transmitting an indicator of the first flavor from the first site to the second site.

1 7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
2 defining a second flavor describing the columns of the second copy; and
3 wherein the step of updating the second copy of the table at the second site based
4 on the ~~transmitted changes~~ change data includes the step of updating
5 overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second flavor in the
6 second copy of the table.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the step of maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site includes the step of
3 maintaining an updatable snapshot at a laptop computer site; and
4 the step of maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site includes the
5 step of maintaining a master table at a master site.

1 9. (Currently amended) A method of modifying a table to drop a first column and
2 add a second column, said table being replicated at a plurality of sites, comprising
3 the steps of:

4 (a) ~~defining~~ associating a first flavor ~~for~~ with a first site, said first flavor
5 describing the table as having both the first column and the second
6 column;

7 (b) after associating the first flavor with the first site, adding the second column to
8 a first copy of the table at the first site, so that the first copy of the table
9 contains both the first column and the second column;

10 (c) ~~defining~~ associating a second flavor ~~for~~ with the [[a]] second site, said second
11 flavor describing the table as having the second column but not the first
12 column;

13 (d) after associating the second flavor with the second site, dropping the first
14 column and adding the second column to a second copy of the table at the
15 second site;

- 16 (e) after dropping the column and adding the second column to the second copy of
17 the table at the second site, defining associating the second flavor for with
18 the first site and dropping the first column from the first copy of the table
19 at the first site; and
20 (f) maintaining replication activities while performing steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and
21 (e) such that records stored in the first copy of the table at said first site are
22 replicated from said first site to said second site while said first copy of the
23 table and said second copy of the table maintain a different set of columns
24 for the table.

1 10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of maintaining
2 replication activities includes the steps of:
3 transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first copy of the table
4 from the first site to the second site; and
5 updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on overlapping
6 columns between the first flavor and the second flavor.

1 11. (Currently amended) A method of propagating changes to a data container,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 maintaining a first copy of the data container at a first site;
4 maintaining a second copy of the data container at a second site;
5 transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first copy of the data
6 container from the first site to the second site; and
7 updating the second copy of the data container at the second site based on the
8 ~~transmitted changes~~ change data to create an updated second copy of the
9 table;
10 wherein the first copy of the data container and the updated second copy of the
11 data container ~~resulting from said transmitting and updating~~ have at least
12 one non-overlapping data field both before and after the step of updating.

1 12-15. (Cancelled).

1 16. (New) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of
2 instructions for propagating changes to a table, wherein execution of the one or
3 more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes:
4 maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site;
5 maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site;
6 transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first copy of the table
7 from the first site to the second site; and
8 updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on the change data
9 to create an updated second copy of the table,
10 wherein the first copy of the table and the updated second copy of the table have
11 at least one non-overlapping relational database column both before and
12 after the step of updating.

1 17. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the non-overlapping
2 relational database column is present in the first copy and missing in the updated
3 second copy.

1 18. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the non-overlapping
2 relational database column is missing in the first copy and present in the updated
3 second copy.

1 19. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising the step
2 of reconciling differences in the column shape of the first copy and the column
3 shape of the second copy for changes identified in the change data.

1 20. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising the step
2 of defining a top flavor describing overlapping relational database columns and
3 non-overlapping relational database columns of the table.

1 21. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, further comprising the steps
2 of:
3 defining a first flavor describing the columns of the first copy; and

transmitting an indicator of the first flavor from the first site to the second site.

22. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, further comprising the steps of:
- defining a second flavor describing the columns of the second copy; and
- wherein the step of updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on the change data includes the step of updating overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second flavor in the second copy of the table.

23. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein:
- the step of maintaining a first copy of the table at a first site includes the step of maintaining an updatable snapshot at a laptop computer site; and
- the step of maintaining a second copy of the table at a second site includes the step of maintaining a master table at a master site.

24. (New) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for modifying a table to drop a first column and add a second column, said table being replicated at a plurality of sites, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes:
- (a) associating a first flavor with a first site, said first flavor describing the table as having both the first column and the second column;
- (b) after associating the first flavor with the first site, adding the second column to a first copy of the table at the first site, so that the first copy of the table contains both the first column and the second column;
- (c) associating a second flavor for with the second site, said second flavor describing the table as having the second column but not the first column;
- (d) after associating the second flavor with the second site, dropping the first column and adding the second column to a second copy of the table at the second site;

15 (e) after dropping the column and adding the second column to the second copy of
16 the table at the second site, associating the second flavor with the first site
17 and dropping the first column from the first copy of the table at the first
18 site; and

19 (f) maintaining replication activities while performing steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and
20 (e) such that records stored in the first copy of the table at said first site are
21 replicated from said first site to said second site while said first copy of the
22 table and said second copy of the table maintain a different set of columns
23 for the table.

1 25. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the step of
2 maintaining replication activities includes the steps of:
3 transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first copy of the table
4 from the first site to the second site; and
5 updating the second copy of the table at the second site based on overlapping
6 columns between the first flavor and the second flavor.

1 26. (New) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of
2 instructions for propagating changes to a data container, wherein execution of the
3 one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes:
4 maintaining a first copy of the data container at a first site;
5 maintaining a second copy of the data container at a second site;
6 transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first copy of the data
7 container from the first site to the second site; and
8 updating the second copy of the data container at the second site based on the
9 change data to create an updated second copy of the table;
10 wherein the first copy of the data container and the updated second copy of the
11 data container have at least one non-overlapping data field both before and
12 after the step of updating.